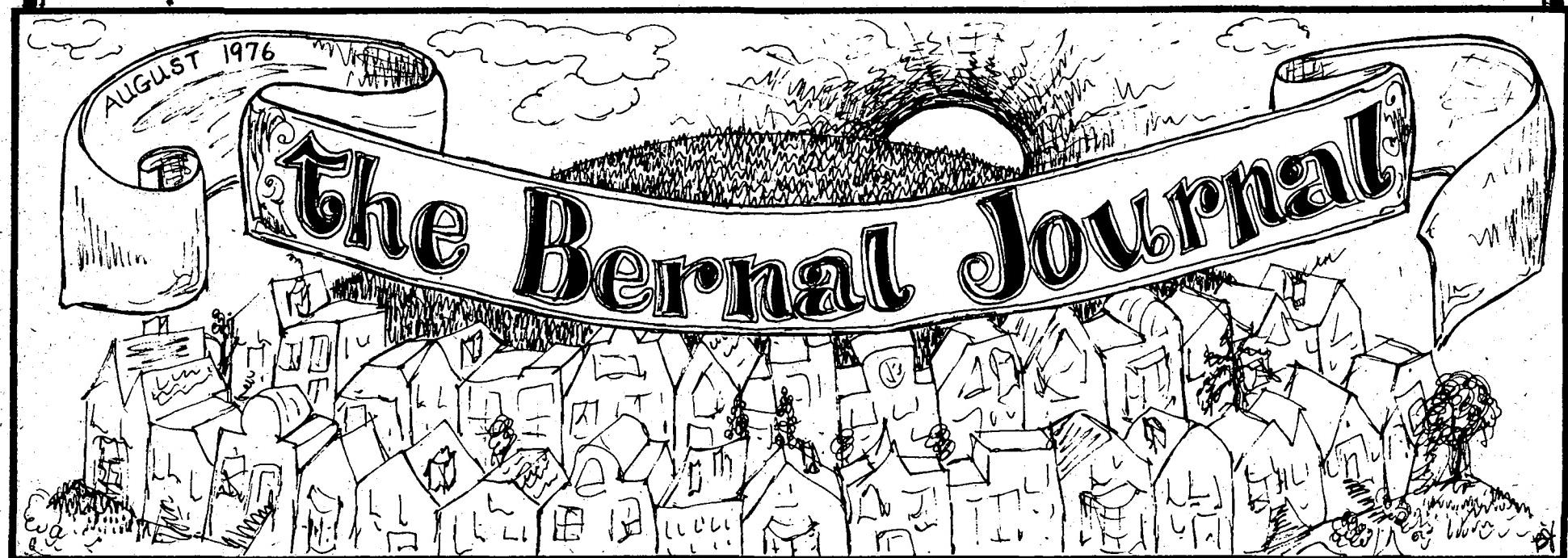


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REFURBISHING OF PRECITA PARK

The refurbishing of Precita Park—scheduled to be completed at the end of August—is a good example of dedicated individuals in a community prodding the bureaucracy to serve the people.

Four years ago some money was allocated for a climbing apparatus and new play equipment in Precita Park. The climbing structure was completed at the time but the play equipment never materialized.

Approximately one year later several interested members of the community became aware that additional money was available for the park and formed the Precita Park Committee. In order to get maximum community involvement the committee held an election in June, 1974 to establish priorities for the park improvement. Some 200 people voted and decided that landscaping and shrubbery were the highest priority items followed by new play structures.

Shortly thereafter members of the park committee drew up an overall design and built a scale model of the play structure. By Dec., 1974, after a series of meetings with officials from the Park and Recreation Dept. and Bureau of Engineers, nothing had happened.

In January of 1975 Ken Schubert and Frank Burns became co-chairpersons of the Precita Park Committee and throughout the Spring and Summer repeatedly met with city officials vainly attempting to get action on the park. During this period, the committee was informed that a new sprinkler system had to be installed out of the money allocated for park improvements. Also the plans for the project given to the community leaders by the city continually excluded the voter-approved priority items.

In November, 1975 the committee met with Dean Macris of the City Planning Dept. and explained the budget dilemma. Mr. Macris was sympathetic and met with city officials. Subsequently money was made available

(...Continued on page 2)

THE BURNING OF BERNAL HILL

Burning the hill is supposed to be fire prevention. It prevents anyone else from burning the hill for there is nothing left to burn. From now until the rains begin in November, the hill is unusable. It is just a hill of blackness.

When I moved to Bernal Hgts. in 1971, the best part of my home was the back yard which bordered Bernal Hill. Now the Fire Dept. burns it. That is infringing on my rights.

Everyday hundreds of people use Bernal Hill. Where are the children supposed to play now? Families who have gone there this time of year to pick blackberries have now been denied that privilege. The newly planted pine trees have been burned. What has happened to the wild life? People have gone hiking on the hill everyday but now the preventive burning has cancelled that enjoyment. With so little open space left for people to enjoy in this world I cannot believe something like this can happen. I don't know who gave the order. But how can a few people ruin the hill that hundreds of people enjoy?

This year there were fewer fires and the grass was shorter than previous years. Now that the time for most fires is over, the Fire Dept. burns the hill. Every year "S.F. Youth Jobs" has students cutting the grass along the roadside. Why not near property also? This to me would be the answer to fire prevention on Bernal Hill

Pat Marston

from
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To:

BERNAL HEIGHTS SELF-HELP..... REALITY OR ILLUSION?

Having spent the last three years working, sometimes slaving, in upgrading our property, questions pop into mind as to the real direction The Hill is traveling in. Is it truly one of "what can we do to make this place better?" Or, is it more like "who or what can we hassle for (free?) money and labor to do this job, or that?"

Block club meetings often sound like a litany of requests to various city agencies.

Casual conversations ring with the same foolish thinking: "Where can we get something for nothing?"

There never was, nor will be, the proverbial "free lunch."

Owner-occupied homes remain unpainted, unrepaired and uncleared while the occupants seem to have plenty of time to sit on porch steps visiting, sometimes gossiping. Color TV sets and stereo music blares from indoors. Shiny expensive cars are parked outdoors. Beer cans pop; fireworks explode. Surely, not everyone can plead poverty when it comes to purchasing paint and/or home repair supplies.

Streets are dirty with resident-deposited filth. Why should we wait for the city to provide another \$17,000 a year streetsweeper? Would it hurt to clean our own sidewalks and streets once in a while?

Holly Park is a disgrace with people-tossed broken beer and soda bottles. Can we stop tossing trash? Can we ask others to stop tossing trash?

Broken-down cars are parked on our crowded streets, the car owners, oblivious to the ugly sights, cannot park them in the garages they do (sometimes) have, because the garages are too filled with junk.

Up and coming vandals, ages five to fifteen, roam our streets looking for ways to graduate to Juvenile Hall. Their parents seem to care not at all that "little Billy" or

(...Continued on page 2)

(Precita Park Continued...) for the entire project, including those items planned by the community.

Actual work on the park began in May and, except for a three week delay due to a mistake by the Water Department, is proceeding as scheduled.

Improvements in the park other than the new sprinkler system include a serpentine play ramp of wood, a 12 foot spiral slide, a 16 foot wavy slide, an eight foot straight slide and a wooden sand box for the play area. Landscaping improvements are as follows: reseeding both ends of the park; planting numerous shrubs, plants and trees. The park will also receive 13 benches, some with game tables, new trash containers and two concrete walkways.

Funds for the work came from four sources, the Office of Community Development, HUD Open Space Fund, city budget money and the Bank of America Park Adoption Program.

The Precita Park Committee, along with many others, supported the project and participated in the struggle to improve Precita Park. They all deserve recognition for a job well done. The two people who managed the entire project for the last two years are Frank Burns and Ken Schubert.

It is obvious by this example of perseverance that the San Francisco city government can be made responsive to the needs of the community. Thanks to the efforts of these neighbors, Precita Park will soon be finished and ready for use by everyone.

Greg Catani



[2]

(B.H. Self-Help Continued...) "little Suzy" is a real pain to others living here. In fact, many parents seemingly request that their children play elsewhere...anyplace, so as to not bother themselves. These same children could be playing in the fine parks we already have, instead of destroying them...if only some parents took the time to give some honest parental guidance. These same children could be helping to clean the streets, or their own homes (rentals included), since they have so much excess energy to expend. But this requires creative direction from parents who too often know how to create children, but fail miserably in helping that child grow up into a useful, valuable adult.

When these, and many other items that could be listed here, are attended to by we, the residents of Bernal Heights...then and only then should we have the substance behind us that entitles a neighborhood to request, ney demand, this 'n that from every other public agency.

While there is no "free lunch", it does seem logical to believe that if you put your best (shiny) foot forward at the public trough, fewer people will step on it.

Ed Kieren

EDITORIAL NOTE...

Due to several circumstances, the newspaper is only four pages this month. We realize this is not always sufficient to cover the news adequately and, because of this lack of space, there is no calendar this issue. Stay tuned....next issue will be a wopper!

Billie Jones

B.H.A. Meeting

Committees reported on progress: BERNASERVE is now the official spokespeople to the City Planning Commission for the B.H. Mult-Service Center.

Their job is to develop 1)a list of programs which need housing; 2)the description of the amount and kind of space needed by each program and how often; 3)a list of possible buildings which might work for our needs.

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS PROGRAM has funded a project of the Bernal Fund and BJ. The idea is to have a workshop of artists and non-artists which will learn a technique and use it to do the art work in the BJ and a special page the group can use for art-related writing and graphics. "Non-artists" contact Christine Axelrod, 824-0808 7-10.

Cora Cruz was commended on the successful potluck.

Dr. Victor Eisner, a representative of the S.F. Health Dept. told the meeting that the Dist. Health Cntr. is interested in learning what the people in the neighborhood see as health problems and what the district should do about them. The Health Dept. runs several preventative medicine clinics--for babies, school children, family planning, etc.--and works with schools and other agencies. Anyone with suggestions for the Health Dept. can notify the BHA or write the District 3 Health Cntr., 1525 Silver Avenue.

P.S. The BHA is going to get things done in the neighborhood. If you belong to a group, social-political-or otherwise, send a representative to the monthly Board Meetings. If you don't belong to a group or committee, but want to, just come to the meetings or call Myrtle Walker, 648-7952.... The following committees exist and need more members: Community Center, Education, Out-reach, Social. Proposed are Environment and Police.....The next BHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING is Aug. 11 7:30-9:30pm. Agenda: Committee Reports 2)Plan for neighborhood-wide General Meeting 3)Plan for Neighborhood Fair 4)Relaxing time.....

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

What do we want done with Yerba Buena? According to Doug Engman, of S.F. Coalition of Neighborhoods, any plan will cost us \$179 million. We are urged to have a say in how it will be spent. Background information is at the Bernal Library. Our district meeting is Tues. Aug. 17, 7:30 pm at Edison School, 22nd Street and Dolores.

Our input and support has been solicited in regard to bus routes to the Golden Gate Recreational Areas in the vicinity (or the possibility there won't be busses), and whether there should be a Muni bus lane on Mission between Beale and 11th Streets, to expedite workers coming home.

Also, Milton Marks wants to tell us about his work as senator and hear what we need and want, 2 college students are writing papers on Bernal Hgts., a reporter from S.F. Magazine wanted to know about Bernal Hgts., and a representative from Health Cntr. #3 wants to tell about their services.

If you want to participate in any of this call Pat Helton at 647-3665.

The Bernal Journal

A non-profit, bimonthly newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Association and the Bernal Fund. It is dedicated to serving the people of Bernal Heights with pertinent news and information on interesting ideas, issues, people, places and things to do. Its purpose is to preserve and improve the quality of life on the Hill. All work done on the BJ is voluntary. For any information on the BJ call Billie Jones, 282-5457.

Staff

Editor: Billie Jones
News Editor: Greg Catani
Treasurer: Sandie Gill
Paste-up: Tom Duffy
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BUDGET REPORT

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New Subscriptions (@ \$1)	\$ 13
Advertising Sales	\$ 96
Donations	\$ 17
Expenses	-0-
Printing	(\$ 140)

NEW BALANCE AUGUST 1976 \$ 382

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The ARTS

MURALS IN PROGRESS

Bernal Hgts. residents are invited to participate in painting a new mural at LECONTE SCHOOL, bordering Precita Park. The theme is Family Life and Spirit of Man. Painting hours are 9am-1pm Mon, Wed, Fri, and 1pm-5pm Tues, Thurs, Sat. Call Susan Cervantes, artist-in-residence, at 285-7833 or come by LeConte School.

Come and see a new mural at the Holly Park Housing Project. Fran Velasco, a community artist, designed the landscape scenes, and housing project residents are painting. There are plans for a second mural designed by the neighborhood residents.

NEW B.H. ARTS COUNCIL UNDER WAY

The new Bernal Hgts. Arts Council has its third meeting July 13. More than 40 people have attended the meetings. Plans are to have a neighborhood arts fair in Precita Park in the Fall, an ongoing exhibit of neighborhood artists in the B.H. Library, and painting a mural on the walls of the Library next to the playground. For interest in participating in these projects and joining the Arts Council, call Susan Cervantes at 285-2287 or 285-7833 or Perry Bard at 285-4716. Come to the next Arts Council meeting on Tues. Aug. 3 at 7:30 pm at 307 Cortland.

IMOLA

Nanay Góaf Hill Gallery will present the extraordinary genius of IMOLA in a one woman show. It is a magnificent collection of surrealistic oil paintings combining unusually refined color skill and composition balance with fantasies inspired from worlds beyond.

Opening Reception Aug. 6, 8 pm
Exhibit thru Sept. 5, 12-8pm, 7 days

PANGAEA.....PERFORMING ARTS

The Aug. schedule for Pangaea, the new center for the performing arts in Bernal Hgts. is: Aug 6, Sphinx Consort playing composed and improvised new music; Aug 7, unabrasive music for all occasions and many recently invented pieces; Aug 13, John Gruntfest Ritual Band with totally listenable new music; Aug 14, Skyblood with new jazz from Marin County; Aug 20, Saputelli and Sabella, a small ensemble with synchronizations for electric and acoustic music; Aug 21, Future Primitives who insist they receive their compositions from other galaxies; Aug 27, Undance, open jam session, bring your own (non-electric) instruments; Aug 28, Sound Clinic, new findings in composed and improvised sound. Aug 11 there will be a special Pangaea music théâtre workshop performance. On the 29th, poetry by Lorraine Ming Tong.

Pangaea is at 517 Cortland. Donations for the shows are \$1.50 and begin at 8 pm. The gallery is open 12-5 pm Sat and Sun. Private music lessons are available. For more info on any of this call 824-6131 or 826-5792.

AUDREY O'GILVIE HONORED

The Bernal Hgts. Assn. opened its social season with a potluck honoring the six-year volunteer services of Audrey O'Gillvie, Director of Brothers and Sisters United. Mrs. O'Gillvie has battled city bureaucracy...and through her strength and fortitude, we now have a temporary pre-school youth and recreational center at 307 Cortland. The party was also to celebrate the opening of this center.

After the potluck, speeches were exchanged. Among the guests were Senator Milton Marks and his son.

Anyone can help with the center. After Aug. 27 there will be only the Director, Mrs. O'Gillvie, providing what services she can. Drop by before then and see what's happening.

Pat Helton



THANKS TO ALL

I would like to express my greatest gratitude to all the community, and people from other communities who came to the beautiful dinner given in my honor for the community service I have tried so hard to give of myself for the past 5 years. And many thanks for the lovely speeches you gave in my honor. I sincerely thank and love you all. Mrs. Audrey O'Gillvie

COMMUNITY CENTER

The S.F. Board of Supervisors has decided that we must get a promise of a 7 year lease from sufficient social agencies to get the go-ahead for our PROPOSED Community Center. B.H. Committee is dauntlessly working on a site and programs. They meet Aug. 4, 18, Sept. 1, 15. Come help this important committee. 307 Cortland 8 pm.

ZONING REVISION

On May 20 the City Planning Dept. established new zoning for the city. It is now the law and will remain so while the Planning Commission holds hearings. After taking public testimony, the Commission will adopt a final zoning ordinance and pass it on to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

The new zoning consists of new district definitions and names, and new maps. The maps for Bernal Hgts. are very similar to the old ones. But where zoning on a house was R-1, it is now RH-1; and where a flat was R-2, it is RH-2. The new RH district rules are more restrictive than the old and are designed to protect family housing and insure that new construction is compatible with existing structures.

You can get copies of the new zoning code from the Planning Dept. Any comments concerning the effect of the new zoning on Bernal Hgts. call Jim Haas at 285-5048.

Classes:

CAT CLASSES

Darla Johnson, a zoologist living in Bernal Heights, will be giving a series of classes about Large Cats Around the World. Classes will be held in the mornings or evenings on Fri., Sat., and Sun. for people 10 years old and older. Darla will also be talking about the wild cats which once roamed Bernal Hill. To sign up, call Darla in the early evenings at 282-1788. Ann Lacey

YMCA PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The Mission YMCA Preschool is now accepting students (ages 3-5) for fall session starting Tues. Sept 7. For information call Sandy 586-6900 or drop by the YMCA, 4080 Mission St.

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Classes will meet 8 afternoons, 3-5pm, Bayview Mental Health, #10-29th St. FREE. Call if interested: Ruth Burton of Scottie McKinney at 648-1233 or 648-0456.

FREE CITY ARTS CENTER SUMMER SCHEDULE

605 Cortland

Mon. 7-9pm Street Theatre Workshop
Tues. 7:30-9:30pm Adult Painting
Wed. 7-9pm Street Theatre Workshop
Thu. 3-5pm Acting, Making Shows (8-14)
Fri. 8-10pm Performances
Sat. 9:30-10:30am Puppet and (3-8)
11:00-1:00pm Mask Making (8-80)
3:00pm Puppet Shows
Stilting &/or juggling--by appt. (8-80)
Free mural and window painting to the general benefit.



BERNAL LIBRARY

Free Adult Programs 7:30 pm

Aug. 11 - Film tribute to IMOGENE CUNNINGHAM who recently died here at 93 after a photography career spanning 70 years.

"THE BED" a film by James Broughton is a merry allegory which celebrates impudently and imaginatively just about everything that could happen in bed.

"THE PLEASURE GARDEN" by Broughton is a joyous musical fantasy celebrating love in the park and the victory of the pleasure principles over all prudes and killjoys. Both films have won awards.

"OFFON" short by Scott Bartlett.
Aug. 25 - Silent Classic from 1926

"THE BLACK PIRATE" starring Douglas Fairbanks.

Sept. 8 - Mr. H.S. Choate, a Bernal resident, will present a slide show on two ancient Mayan cities in the Yucatan, Uxmal and Kabah. They represent the digging and restoration done during 1972. Mr. Choate will answer any questions his slides inspire.

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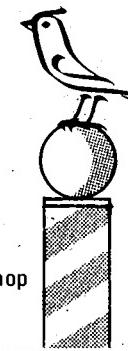
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